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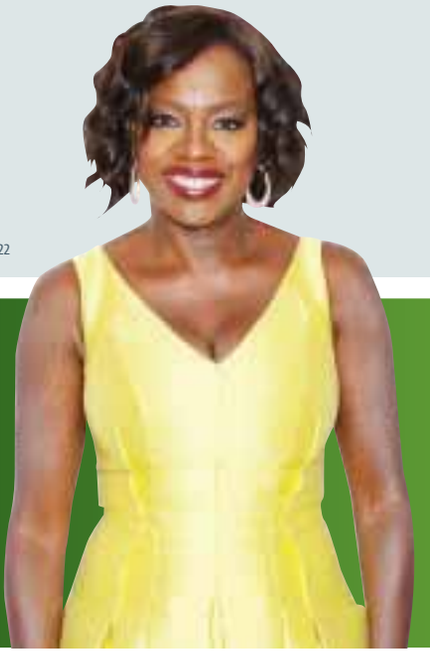

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Thursday, September 24, 2015 www.metro

Battle ready

Top cop. NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton, in a sit-down with Metro, said Mayor Bill de Blasio can fight his own battles, "but when it comes to police, I'm very comfortable fighting their battles." PAGE 02

Bill Bratton visits Metro for an editorial board meeting. / HANNAH MATTIX,METRO

A look back at previous papal visits to Big Apple

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R. Kelly bumps n' grinds at Barclays

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Yankees' Yogi Berra was one of a kind

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2 'VIDEO: Local nude Bollywood dancers take over Times Square'

3 'Road closures for Philly Papal visit announced'

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Bratton to 'good old days' critics: 'Get over it'

NYPD. Top cop Bill Bratton told Metro the previous administrations did good work, but the department is making progress both inside and out.

NYC Police Commissioner Bill Bratton visits Metro for an editorial board meeting. / HANNAH MATTIX

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said Wednesday he stands ready to fight back and defend his officers from unfounded criticism that cops are either doing too little or too much.

In an extensive sit-down with Metro, New York City's top cop repeated a refrain that recent headlines about rising crime and editorial references to the "good old days" under previous administrations are misleading.

"The good old days weren't quite [as good] as they seem to remember," Bratton said. "Let's get beyond the hyperbole, let's get beyond 'the good old days.' Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg is gone. Commissioner [Ray] Kelly is gone. Get over it."

Bratton praised both Bloomberg's and Kelly's work, given what he described as a mandate by New Yorkers to keep crime down.

"They did, but they had years that crime went up," the commissioner added. "During our time … it's trending in the right direction. I deal with facts, not with headlines."

Quoted

"Let's get beyond 'the good old days.' Mayor Bloomberg is gone. Commissioner Kelly is gone. Get over it." Bratton

The commissioner explained that anybody who plays politics with policing and crime statistics is "denigrating the city inappropriately."

"I'll let the mayor fight his battles," Bratton said. "I'll let the council fight theirs. But when it comes to police, I'm very comfortable fighting their battles."

Bratton made similar comments on Tuesday when he pushed back against Comptroller Scott Stringer's statement that City Hall "politicized statistics" in declaring New York City's most recent summer the safest in decades.

He also took issue with recent efforts by the City Council to reform the department, specifically a pair of bills that would require the NYPD to track and identify aggressive officers.

The bills were proposed not long after the wrongful arrest of former tennis pro James Blake.

Bratton said Wednesday that council members should be more patient with the reforms already underway long before Blake was inappropriately detained by an officer who had not yet received the use-of-force retraining launched last fall. Other reforms include a risk management unit to look at patterns of police misconduct.

"All these things are in the works and haven't had the chance to take hold yet," Bratton said, suggesting lawmakers approach him before they send out press releases.

"What they're basically doing is interrupting and interfering with me and any other commissioner's duties as policy makers," he said. "They make laws. We make policy. Their laws are redundant on top of policies that we're making."

Besides defending his men and women in blue, Bratton also said he remained focused on his early commitment to bring up morale within the rank and file.

Last year, Bratton admitted morale was low during a spate of protests demanding police reform and the subsequent shooting deaths of two police officers in Brooklyn.

Former NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly, Bratton's predecessor, last week told an audience at the Council for Foreign Relations morale has "never been lower."

Bratton admitted that there are some officers unhappy with the new administration after an initial survey they conducted in 2014.

"We've been responding to every one of their complaints about why it was so low," he said, including speeding up officers' interactions with the Civilian Complaint Review Board and adding 40 attorneys to the city's legal staff to fight lawsuits against officers.

"I have 35,000 cops. Thirty-two thousand have not had a CCRB complaint, yet they get painted with the brush about CCRB complaints," Bratton said. "It's a pretty good track record, I think."

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Papal visit. Homeless clear-out not just for pope: Bratton

While advocates for the homeless are apprehensive about NYPD efforts to clear them out during the papal visit, Commissioner Bill Bratton told Metro their efforts are unrelated to Pope Francis' trip.

Bratton pointed to the intersection at 125th Street and Lexington Avenue as a particularly chaotic scene as homeless New Yorkers have flocked it as a safe haven despite constant efforts by police to clear the area out.

"I've visited [the intersection] several times over the last couple of weeks, prior to what the pope is up to," Bratton said Wednesday. "Do we attempt to buff up the city? Sure. What's wrong with that?"

Repeatedly described in media reports as a homeless encampment, the intersection under the Metro-North tracks became a sort of battleground as activists recently decried the NYPD and Mayor Bill de Blasio for their failure to help the homeless.

It's also not far from the East Harlem school Pope Francis is scheduled to visit on Friday. Bratton has previously said that the NYPD stands ready to follow the pope — internationally recognized for his willingness to interact with passersby — wherever he chooses to go.

"I think they're going to make sure the pope sees just a couple of homeless folks so he can bless them," activist and formerly homeless New Yorker Brodie Enoch told Metro earlier in September.

Police patrol. / GETTY IMAGES

The day before the pope arrives in New York City and shortly before the United Nations General Assembly convenes, however, Bratton defended the department's preparation.

Bratton said that it included a cleaning of the tunnel under the United Nations, which he said was covered in graffiti.

"We have 170 world leaders going into the United Nations, so i think it might behoove us to go up and give it a scrub," Bratton said. "I make no apologies for cleaning the city up." CHESTER SORIA

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Pope Paul VI waves to crowd as he arrives at Kennedy Airport for a visit to New York. / GETTY IMAGES

NYers quite familiar with papal visits

Historic. Metro takes a look at previous visits by Holy Fathers to the Big Apple.

Pope Francis' visit to the United States is historic for many reasons, one being that this is the first time a pope will address Congress.

Even so, every pope who has made it to the United States since the first holy visit 50 years ago has stopped by the Big Apple, and Pope Francis is no different.

"He knows what he wants with the church — he wants to see the church going out, reaching out to poor people," said the Rev. Edward Dougherty of Manhattan's Church of Our Lady of Victory, which is near the 9/11 Memorial the pope is scheduled to visit Friday.

"That's the kind of message he wants to impart while he's here," Dougherty said.

New York has plenty of practice when it comes to papal visits.

New Yorkers greeted their first pope in 1965, when Pope Paul VI arrived at Kennedy Airport in what ended up being a 14-hour visit, including a quick talk with then-President Lyndon Johnson at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

Like Pope Francis, Pope Paul VI filled up a major New York sports arena for a Mass, only back then High Holiness held the ceremony from the diamond at Yankee Stadium.

Ever since, all popes have presided over Mass at Yankee Stadium — except Pope Francis, who will receive thousands of parishioners at Madison Square Garden.

Pope John Paul II was the next Holy Father to swing by the five boroughs in 1979. Unlike his predecessor, John Paul II made New York one of a handful of stops around the country.

He did the same in 1995, 10 years before he passed away.

It wasn't until 2008 that the next pope graced New York with a visit. Pope Benedict XVI visited other cities like John Paul before him, and he made sure to address the United Nations like all visiting popes, and he also became the first to visit Ground Zero.

All popes who have flown into New York have visited or held mass at the historic St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan.

But city officials and religious observers alike are anticipating Pope Francis will directly reach out to New Yorkers in ways previous popes may not have.

"I think this is exciting and we're really proud," Dougherty said. "This is a different time for the papacy."

Additional reporting by Karina Cuevas

Papal Visits to NYC

- Pope Paul VI — 1965
- Pope John Paul II — 1979, 1995
- Pope Benedict XVI — 2008
- Pope Francis — 2015

Quoted

"This is a different time for the papacy."
Dougherty

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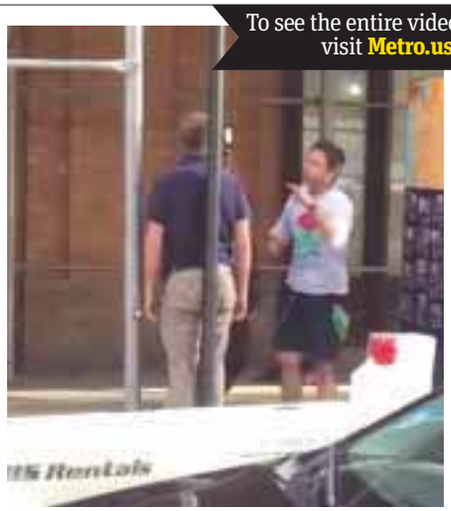

YOUTUBE

Angry jogger claims he settled Brooklyn in viral video

A video of a jogger who had a meltdown and screamed at a man who apparently ran his stroller into him went viral Wednesday because in his rant the jogger claimed he settled Brooklyn. While being held back by a cop, the jogger yells: "The only reason why people like you are living here is because I settled this f—ing neighborhood for you!" This, of course, garners a huge roar of laughter from the people recording. "Thank you, white guy!" says the man recording the confrontation.

World Maker Faire spotlight. Playing with LEGOs inspired inventor to make steel horse

Each week all month, Metro has been highlighting an inventor who will be at World Maker Faire 2015. This week, meet Adrian Landon, 26, of Brooklyn.

The mechanical steel horse / PROVIDED

What are you showcasing at World Maker Faire?
A life-size, stainless steel, suspended mechanical horse that gallops in slow motion at the push of a button.

How did you come up with the idea?
From my passion for riding horses, art and sculpture, metal and engineering, and tinkering with LEGOs when I was a kid, I thought that it just might be possible to make such a crazy thing.

Did anything surprising happen while you were developing it?
I was surprised by how hard it was to make things really precise in metal-working. All my previous sculptures never required such precision and detail as it was more art than engineering.

What are you working on next?
I would like to develop this project further and make newer ones with different materials and mechanisms.

Is there anyone at World Maker Faire you're excited to meet?
I have always wanted to go to a Maker Faire and I am very excited to be part of it and attend it for the first time.

What invention do you think would change the world?
I think if we could free ourselves from gravity with some kind of device or spaceship, then we would never have to be bound to the ground and worry about being stuck in traffic, or of how fast your car will break down from driving in the streets of NYC, and more.

Meet Maker Adrian Landon at World Maker Faire at the New York Hall of Science Sept. 26 & 27.

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Astoria

Cops seek suspect in subway groping

A man allegedly grabbed a woman's buttocks twice before he ran away from an Astoria subway station.

Cops are looking for the man, who officials said accosted the woman on a Queens-bound N train the evening of Sept. 18.

The suspect / PROVIDED

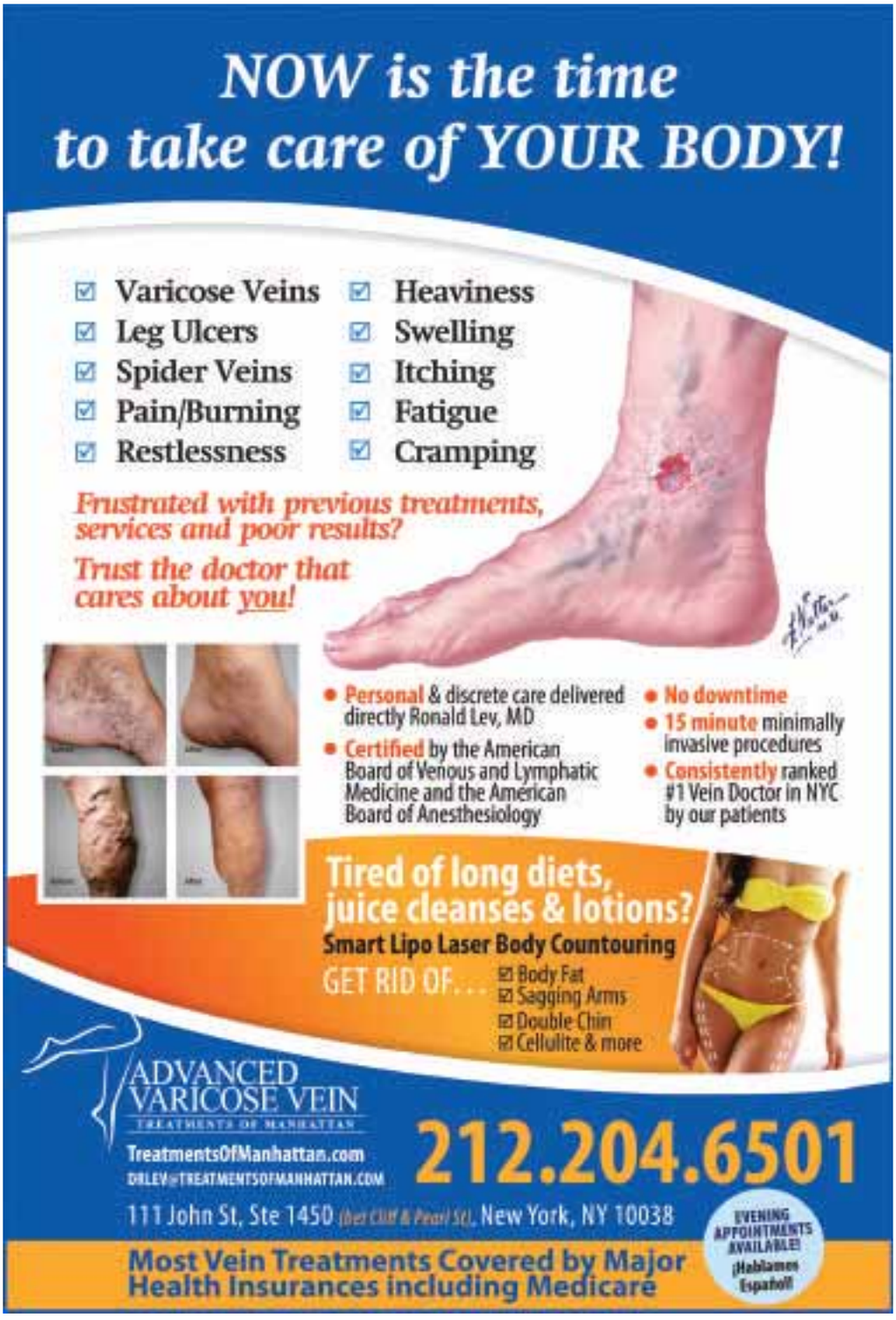
Authorities said the woman was standing in the train car when the man behind her suddenly ran his hand across her rear end.

The woman confronted him, she told police, who said the man escalated the station by grabbing her buttocks before he ran away from the Broadway and 31st Street station.

Before he ran away, however, the woman used her phone to take a picture of the suspect.

Investigators described the man as white and between 30 to 35 years old, with blue eyes and black-framed glasses. He stood about 6-feet with a stocky build.

He was last seen wearing a black knit hat, a green shirt, blue jeans and carrying a backpack. CHESTER SORIA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Choking. Suspect charged in Bushwick hotel murder

The suspect / PROVIDED

A Brooklyn man suspected of killing two women between July and September has now been charged in both murders.

Cops apprehended Joseph Danclair, 36, last week and promptly charged him with the murder of Antoinette Marin, 43, who was found dead in the Manhattan Broadway Hotel in Midtown.

On Tuesday, Danclair was charged with the death of Chrissy Bevelaqua, 34.

Like Marin, Bevelaqua was found dead in a hotel room with compressions to her neck and chest.

Investigators found Marin's body on Sept. 8. Bevelaqua was killed on July 23 at the Bushwick Hotel on Bushwick Avenue.

Authorities found and released video surveillance that linked Danclair, who has been previously arrested 28 times, to the scenes at both murders.

Chief of Manhattan Detectives William Aubry previously told reporters that no prostitution was involved in either case.

"These women were good women," Aubry said last week.

Aubry also said Danclair is a suspect in the rapes of a 41-year-old Manhattan woman and a 34-year-old woman in Brooklyn. CHESTER SORIA

Inert

Bomb squad investigates hand grenade reported in Midtown

The New York Police Department bomb squad was sent racing to Midtown on Wednesday afternoon to dismantle what appeared to be a hand grenade found in a bag in the area of 30th Street and Seventh Avenue.

"They did an investigation and it turned out to be an inert hand grenade. It's unknown if it's a toy, or a paperweight," an NYPD spokesman told Metro.

The brief scare happened around 3 p.m. on Wednesday, about 24 hours before Pope Francis is scheduled to land at JFK Airport for his three-day visit. METRO

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Funding. Republican freshmen urge House to avoid shutdown

Eleven first-term Republicans in the House of Representatives on Wednesday appealed to party colleagues to back away from a threatened government closure on Oct. 1, citing concerns about the political and economic costs of such an action.

The 11 freshmen, who are not aligned with the party's far-right Tea Party faction pushing for a shutdown, wrote an open letter to other Republicans urging support for a budget patch that would avert a shutdown, at least for a few weeks.

"We are writing today to express our strong support for a funding resolution that will avoid another unnecessary and harmful government shutdown," said Ryan Costello, Elise Stefanik, Mimi Walters and eight other signers of the letter.

Congress is close to the brink of another possible shutdown because conservative House Republicans have vowed not to support any federal spending plan that provides continued taxpayer support for Planned Parenthood, the women's healthcare group.

Congressional Democrats and President Barack Obama support the group, which has been under fire for weeks over allegations that it improperly sells aborted fetal tissue.

The group has said it has done nothing wrong and has blasted a series of accusatory videos, secretly filmed and posted online by an anti-abortion group, as unfair and deceptive.

The federal fiscal year will end in one week and Congress must act to keep agencies funded and operating. REUTERS

Trump says he's the rare Republican who can woo black voters

Trump. He has been criticized by his rivals over his comments about minority groups.

Donald Trump looks on as Ben Carson speaks during the presidential debate. / GETTY IMAGES

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Wednesday he is the rare Republican who could win a sizable portion of the black vote.

Trump, the Republican front-runner, spoke in South Carolina at a meeting of the Greater Charleston Business Alliance, which supports minority businesses and is affiliated with the South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce.

He cited a recent poll from the firm SurveyUSA that showed him getting support from 25 percent of black respondents in a match-up against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. Trump said that shows he could win the general election.

"Generally, Republicans do not do well with African-Americans," Trump said.

Other polls do not show Trump with as much support from black voters. In a Quinnipiac University poll released in August, Trump got only 3 percent of black support in a match-up against Clinton. REUTERS

Quoted

"I have a lot of friends, African-Americans in New York, they say, 'You're going to get most of the vote.' I was actually disappointed with the 25 percent." Trump

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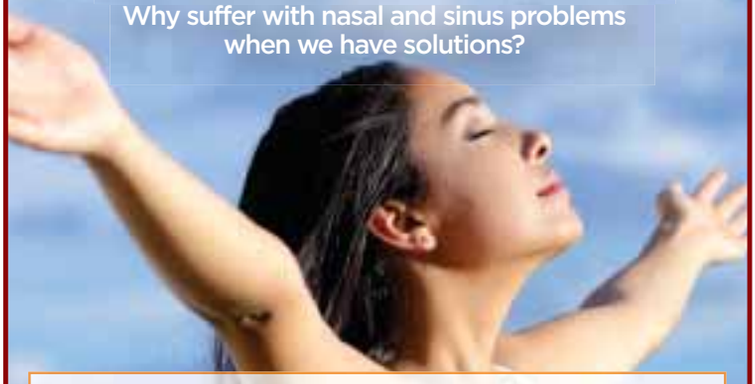

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Family of Texas teen with homemade clock retains lawyers

Ahmed Mohamed. He is a Muslim student who dabbles in robotics and attended a Dallas-area high school.

Ahmed Mohamed
GETTY IMAGES

The family of a Texas teenager who was arrested for bringing a homemade clock to school that was mistaken for a bomb has hired two Dallas attorneys to pursue his legal rights, a representative for the two said on Wednesday.

The case of Ahmed Mohamed touched off a social media firestorm with many saying he was arrested because of his religion.

The teen's family hired Thomas Bowers and Reggie London on his behalf, saying the ninth grader's civil and legal rights have been compromised, Universal Media Group said in a statement.

The bespectacled teen with a penchant for NASA T-shirts has won support from President Barack Obama who invited him to the White House for an astronomy night, and Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg who said "having the skill and ambition to build something cool should lead to applause, not arrest."

He has withdrawn from the school district that suspended him for what it saw as a bomb hoax. The clock is in the possession of police in the Dallas suburb of Irving.

REUTERS

Quoted

"The family wants justice and to ensure no family will ever have to experience what Ahmed went through again."

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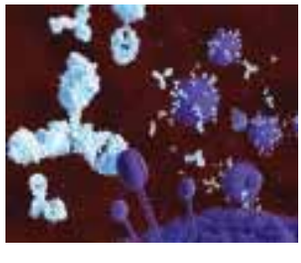

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Suspect in Arizona highway shootings faces 16 felonies

Motorists. Many were unsettled by the incidents, and some said they had been avoiding Interstate 10.

Leslie Allen Merritt / MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/HANDOUT

The suspect in Arizona's spate of recent highway shootings was formally charged Wednesday with 16 felonies, including drive-by shooting and aggravated assault, prosecutors said.

Leslie Allen Merritt Jr., a 21-year-old landscape gardener from the Phoenix area, was also charged with unlawful discharge of a firearm, disorderly conduct and endangerment in connection with the first four of the shootings along a 10-mile stretch of Interstate 10 where it passes through the city.

Despite the head of the state police describing the shootings as "domestic terrorism," there was no mention of that in the complaint filed by county prosecutors.

A spokesman for Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery said the evidence gathered did not support such charges.

A spokesman for the state's Department of Public Safety said the motive behind the shootings was still not known.

Merritt has maintained his innocence, telling a court commissioner authorities had "the wrong guy," and that a handgun he owns and that police believe was used in the crimes was in a pawn shop at the time.

Bond

$1M

Merritt, who remains in jail on a $1 million bond, is accused in the first four of at least 11 possible shootings. Only one person suffered a minor injury.

State police now believe the shootings began Aug. 27, two days earlier than previously thought.

Three possible shootings were reported Aug. 29, including one in which the windshield of an SUV shattered and a 13-year-old girl sustained a cut ear.

In court documents, investigators contested Merritt's statement made Sept. 19, and said his handgun had not been pawned while the shootings were taking place.

Merritt was arrested without incident Sept. 18 while entering a Wal-Mart after police said they were able to "forensically link" four of the shootings to his handgun, which was found later by investigators at a local pawn store.

Arizona Department of Public Safety spokesman Bart Graves said bullets from the handgun discovered at the store were then matched to fragments found at some of the shooting scenes.

Graves said Wednesday the investigation continues, and the possibility remains that the other seven incidents were carried out by copycats. REUTERS

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Five things you need to know

1 5.6 million fingerprints stolen in US personnel data hack

Hackers who stole security clearance data on millions of Defense Department and other U.S. government employees got away with about 5.6 million fingerprint records, some 4.5 million more than initially reported, the government said on Wednesday.

During an ongoing analysis of the data breach, the estimated number of people who had fingerprint records stolen rose from 1.1 million to about 5.6 million, the Office of Personnel Management said in a statement.

OPM has estimated a total of 21.5 million people had their Social Security identification numbers and other sensitive information stolen in the hacking incident earlier this spring. The discovery of additional missing fingerprints did not affect that overall total, it said.

U.S. officials have privately blamed the breach on Chinese government hackers, but they have avoided saying so publicly. Officials also have said no evidence has surfaced yet suggesting the stolen data has been abused, though they fear the theft could present counterintelligence problems. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

2 Charleston to honor shooting victims with street dedication

A South Carolina city on Wednesday is honoring the victims of a shooting massacre by renaming part of the street in front of the historic black church where they died the "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District."

Nine people were shot and killed at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston when a gunman opened fire during a Bible study session.

African Methodist Episcopal bishops planned to join hands in front of the church, nicknamed Mother Emanuel, to dedicate a sign over the street the church faces for the new district. **REUTERS**

3 Boeing to sell 300 jets to China firms, set up China plant

Boeing has signed deals to sell 300 aircraft to three Chinese firms and set up an aircraft plant in China, becoming the first U.S. firm to clinch a business tie-up in the country since Chinese President Xi Jinping began a U.S. state visit.

The deals, potentially worth tens of billions of dollars in total, are the largest order the aerospace firm has received from Chinese companies.

ICBC Financial Leasing Co., a unit of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, separately confirmed it will buy 30 of Boeing's 737-800 jets, worth $2.88 billion at list prices. **REUTERS**

4 France urges Saudi Arabia to cancel death penalty for young Shiite

France called on Saudi Arabia not to execute a Shiite Muslim sentenced to death for his role in antigovernment protests, saying he was a minor when he was arrested.

Ali al-Nimr was given the death penalty in May after taking part in demonstrations three years ago for democracy and equal rights in Saudi Arabia's oil-producing Eastern Province.

"France is concerned about the situation of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr, who was sentenced to death even though he was a minor at the time of the events," Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said. **REUTERS**

5 Pandora says it has paid $500M in artist royalties in past year

Internet radio service Pandora Media Inc. said it paid nearly $500 million in artist royalties over the past 12 months, bringing the total to more than $1.5 billion in about 10 years.

"It took us nearly nine years to generate the first billion dollars in royalties and just over a year to increase that total by 50 percent," Chief Executive Brian McAndrews said in a statement on Wednesday.

Pandora gets revenue from advertising and paid subscriptions. **REUTERS**

World's biggest carmaker. Volkswagen boss quits over diesel emissions testing scandal

Volkswagen Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn resigned on Wednesday, taking responsibility for the German carmaker's rigging of U.S. emissions tests in the biggest scandal in its 78-year history.

"Volkswagen needs a fresh start — also in terms of personnel. I am clearing the way for this fresh start with my resignation," Winterkorn said, following a marathon meeting with the executive committee of the VW board.

The world's biggest carmaker has admitted to U.S. regulators that it programmed computers in its cars to detect when they were being tested and alter the running of their diesel engines to conceal their true emissions.

Volkswagen did not name a successor but said proposals on management appointments would be made to a full board meeting on Friday. Tagesspiegel newspaper, citing sources close to the board, said earlier that Winterkorn would be replaced by Matthias Mueller, who heads the company's Porsche sports car business.

Mueller, a former head product strategist, is also a management board member of Porsche SE and is close to the Piech-Porsche family that controls Volkswagen.

Penalties

$18B

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Volkswagen could face penalties of up to $18 billion.

Winterkorn, who during his eight years in charge oversaw a doubling in Volkswagen's sales and an almost tripling in profit, said he was shocked that misconduct on such a massive scale had been possible at the company, adding that he was not aware of any wrongdoing on his own part.

The carmaker was under huge pressure to take decisive action, with its shares down more than 30 percent in value since the crisis broke.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had urged Volkswagen to move "as quickly as possible" to restore confidence in a company held up for generations as a paragon of German engineering prowess. **REUTERS**

MARTIN WINTERKORN / GETTY IMAGES

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Bishops listen to Pope Francis speak during the midday prayer service. / GETTY IMAGES

Pope tells bishops scandal should never be repeated

Bishops. They welcomed the pope's inclusion of the scandal in his address to them.

Pope Francis on Wednesday told U.S. Roman Catholic bishops that crimes of sexual abuse of minors by clergy should never be repeated, acknowledging the damage caused by years of scandal in the U.S. Catholic Church.

In the remarks, delivered at Saint Matthew's Cathedral in Washington on the first full day of his visit to the United States, the pope did not utter the words "sexual abuse" but referred to the scandal by talking about "difficult moments" and providing help for victims.

Wounds from the scandal, which saw priests who abused children moved from parish to parish instead of being defrocked and reported to authorities, are still festering and draining church finances.

The U.S. church has already been dealt a heavy financial blow by settlement payments and other costs totaling around $3 billion.

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Pope Francis focuses on environment, poverty and migrants

Speech on the White House South Lawn. The pope lauded President Barack Obama's efforts to reduce air pollution.

Pope Francis on Wednesday urged the United States to help tackle climate change and touched on other divisive U.S. political issues such as immigration and economic inequality on his first visit to the world's richest nation.

In an era of renewed racial tensions in the country, the 78-year-old pope invoked America's best-known civil rights leader, the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to make points about the environment and equality.

Speaking later to American bishops, Francis acknowledged the sexual-abuse scandal that has tainted the U.S. church for years by saying these "crimes" should "never be repeated."

As Washington streets were closed and federal workers stayed home, about 15,000 people gathered in bright sunshine on the South Lawn. They heard the pope depart from his usual practice and give a speech in English.

He again made a gesture of simplicity, pulling up in the small black Fiat he used for his arrival in the capital Tuesday.

Francis is a frequent critic of the damage caused to the world's poor and the environment by capitalism's excesses.

The pope also commented on immigration and religious freedom, both issues that are on candidates' agendas in the run up to the 2016 presidential election.

Obama, whose plans for a climate-change bill were thwarted in Congress early in his presidency, said he shared the pope's concerns about the environment.

"Holy Father, you remind us that we have a sacred obligation to protect our planet — God's magnificent gift to us. We support your call to all world leaders to support the communities most vulnerable to a changing climate and to come together to preserve our precious world for future generations," Obama said.

Francis and Obama held talks in the White House, where they also discussed refugees. Both men see eye-to-eye on climate change and defense of the poor but hold different views on abortion rights and gay marriage.

Francis gave his support to traditional marriage, pointing out that he will travel to Philadelphia later in his six-day visit to the United States for a meeting of Catholics "to celebrate and support the institutions of marriage and the family." REUTERS

Pope Francis speaks on the South Lawn of the White House. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation. When it comes to the care of our common home, we are living at a critical moment of history."

Pope Francis

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Seth Rogen is telling it like it is, Jeremy Piven is having trouble separating fiction from reality, Elijah Wood has needs, Patty Duke remembers and Chris Colfer is eager for work.

@Sethrogen:
I no longer have the attention span needed to write a tweet.

@jeremypiven:
Wait a minute here, are u telling me I don't run Selfridges? This is a terrible day for me, I'm not going to work.

@woodelijah:
Harriet Wheeler, please come back. (this is my annual Sundays request)

@pattyduke_id:
RIP Yogi Berra. So many memories of a great man come to mind.

@chriscolfer:
Can I go on Drunk History?

Kendall Jenner, teen queen of dating rumors

They said what? / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

While we're waiting for Orlando Bloom to chime in on whether or not he's been playing kissy-kissy with Kendall Jenner, at least one older dude linked to Not Kylie is going on the record. "Fantastic Four" star Michael B. Jordan tells GQ, "Kendall's a friend of mine, you know? I don't know her, like, that well, but I know her enough. People's perspective on that is what it is. I don't f—ing know." So, there you have it?

Amy Poehler on the market again

But you guys seemed so cool together!

Can we blame all these celebrity breakups on the impending holiday season, or is it too soon for that? You know, like how if you're not sure about a relationship, the last thing you want to do is start worrying about Thanksgiving plans? Anyway, I'm not saying that's what's behind Amy Poehler's split from Nick Kroll after two years of dating, but it's a pretty good theory, right? Or this: "Unfortunately, they just couldn't make the relationship work with their schedules," a source tells Us Weekly. "They really tried, but it just wasn't realistic anymore. They were spending more time apart than together." Sure, but for some couples that's actually a plus.

Can J.Lo stop the release of her old home movies?

Jennifer Lopez's first husband, Ojani Noa — you probably don't remember him — has a bunch of home movies from way back when, and he and business partner Ed Meyer are eager to let them loose on the world. How rude. "We are going to produce a DVD and also have a streaming release of the J.Lo home-video footage," Meyer says, according to InTouch. "There is revealing video of her with a lack of clothing and in sexual situations, especially in the hotel footage from the honeymoon." Lopez, Noa and Meyer have been locked in a legal battle for more than six years, but Lopez withdrew all of her claims against them over the summer. "The videos contain salacious material and are going to shock her fans," Meyer adds. "We have unfinished business." He sounds charming, doesn't he?

Could it be any worse than "The Boy Next Door"?

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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How do we stop the 'Prometheus' sequel?

OH, RIDLEY.

Hey guys, Ridley Scott has a new movie coming out — "The Martian" — which means he's been doing a bunch of interviews catching people up on all those sequels he's been threatening to make, like his ill-advised follow-up to "Blade Runner." Even more disconcerting? He's apparently serious about continuing the terrible "Prometheus" franchise, sending the disembodied head of Michael Fassbender back to work early next year. "Fassbender will do ['Prometheus 2'] with me, and it's meant to start production in February," Scott tells Deadline. "I'm in prep now. I'll either shoot in [Australia] or [Canada]." Could I suggest a third option, like shooting it "not at all"? That would be swell.

Daily video

Milkshake Squirrel steals Shake Shack from NYC garbage

YOUTUBE

Move over, Pizza Rat, there's a new, more adorable food-stealing vermin on the scene. This must be the season for spotting animals making desperate bids for discarded food, because this squirrel liberating a Shake Shack milkshake from a trash can is super-cute. It's clearly so into the thick, sugary bounty that it doesn't mind some up-close camera work. And it doesn't take long for the onlookers to dub him "Shake Squirrel," despite their concerns about his impending tummy ache.

R. Kelly's musical 'Buffet'

Interview. Whether "Ignition" will always be your jam or you're more of a "Trapped in the Closet" fan, R. Kelly says there's something on his new album for everyone.

Few musicians can claim a fan base as diverse as R. Kelly's. Hardcore rap fans love him. Hipsters love him. Even '90s babies who are too young to have seen "Space Jam" have him on their party playlists. Kelly may be 48 years old now, but he hasn't slowed down at all. When we call him at 10 a.m., he's still up from the night before. "I'm still in the studio," he says. "I didn't go to sleep and wake up for this, so you caught me at a great time."

Kelly is headlining Barclays Center on Friday, promoting his 15th studio album, "Buffet," which comes out tomorrow.

"It's called 'Buffet: All You Can Hear' because it's a little bit of everything I've done throughout my career," he explains. "It's a party album, and it's a sexy album. You can party and then after the party, you can go to the afterparty, if you know what I mean."

Speaking up

While "Buffet" delivers on the party songs, it also has a serious side to it. "Planet" is a reaction to the violence and riots that took place in Baltimore this past spring. "With this album, I knew people would want a new party song, a new lovemaking song and other songs that would bring the world together, but in the midst of trying to do that, unfortunately, we had all these tragedies happening all around the world," Kelly says.

"As artists, sometimes we get so frustrated and wish we could do something about it. What we can do is get in the studio and try to write a song that will hopefully plant a seed that will grow more love."

R. Kelly's 15th studio album, "Buffet," is out tomorrow. / GETTY IMAGES

If you go

R. Kelly in concert

Tomorrow, 8 p.m.
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On why hipsters love him

While he's excited for fans to hear the new songs, he says his concerts feature plenty of his older hits. "I love old-school R. Kelly," he says. When he thinks about his music career and legacy, he says he's right where he always wanted to be.

When asked why his music appeals to so many millennials and hipsters, he says, "I never wanted to make songs that were here today, gone tomorrow. I want my songs to [continue] to be played after I'm gone. That has always been my goal, and that's why I think I have so many different types of people at my concerts and listening to my music."

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Passenger: Turning heartbreak into hits

Singer-songwriter. Mike Rosenberg, the man behind Passenger, opens up about almost giving up music (twice!) and why he'll never stop singing about his pain.

Mike Rosenberg wrote "Let Her Go" about a painful breakup, but he says it's a joy to play the song now. / SHERVIN LAINEZ

If you go

Passenger in concert

Tonight, 8 p.m.
Beacon Theatre
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Considering Passenger's single "Let Her Go" spent a massive 45 weeks at No. 1 in the U.K. and 28 weeks (and counting) on Billboard's Hot 100 charts here in the U.S., it's hard to believe Mike Rosenberg (the man behind the moniker) was considering giving up music altogether not that long ago. Here, in an emotional interview, he talks about what kept him going when he hit rock bottom.

Going solo

Passenger may be a one-man show now, but originally, it was a full band. When the band broke up in 2009, going solo didn't even occur to Rosenberg. But he booked some solo gigs anyway while visiting a friend in Australia and says the crowd connected more than ever before. "Suddenly, people could hear every word and really understand it," Rosenberg says. "It was a massive turning point."

Quarterlife crisis

But that wasn't the only time Rosenberg considered giving up. While working on his second album "Whispers," released in 2014, he hit a low point. "I was 27 and had been busking and putting out my own records for four or five years and I just didn't feel like it was growing at all," he remembers. Holed up in his hotel room, Rosenberg put all his frustrations down on paper, which later became his song "27."

He says the very act of feeling his passion overflowing reignited his ambition and reminded him why he wanted to be a musician in the first place. "Obviously every [musician] dreams of playing to thousands of people and having the number one song, but that's not the reason you do it," he says. "The reason you do it is because you're trying to create something that means something to people and to yourself. It's helpful to remind yourself of that sometimes."

Turning pain into poetry

All of the songs Rosenberg writes are deeply personal and often painful, but he says it's a joy to share them. "When [I] write them, it can be a very painful thing because it's still fresh. But as time goes on, I still remember the girl or the situation, but it turns into something different," he says. "Especially with 'Let Her Go,' since it's known around the world now. It started off as a really heart-wrenching breakup song, but now, for me, it's such a treasured thing."

Subway performer

Taking it to the streets

Despite his massive success, Rosenberg still enjoys busking, something he started doing after the band broke up and he had no money. "Looking back on it, those were some of the best years of my life," he says. "I still love busking because not everyone can go to a concert. They might not be able to afford it or they might not be old enough. Busking allows everyone to check out what I do."

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Viola Davis is on top of the world

Interview. The "How to Get Away With Murder" star has a few things to say to people who think her character isn't likeable.

Viola Davis made history in her first leading role on network television. After one season, she became the first African-American woman to win an Emmy for best actress in a drama for her portrayal of the brilliant but tortured Annalise Keating in "How to Get Away With Murder." But it hasn't all been easy. Davis says she's heard criticism that Annalise isn't likeable enough, which isn't what she wants to hear.

"It frustrates me a little bit because I feel that people don't understand what it means to be an actor. I don't think James Gandolfini or Robert De Niro in 'Taxi Driver' or 'Dexter' or James Spader — I don't think they get asked that. I think that people just accept the character. They accept what they're being given, and they actually reward them because they feel like it's complicated," says Davis. "It's only women that you want to be pretty and likeable."

GETTY IMAGES

And that thought process isn't just from random commenters on the Internet complaining.

"I remember I read a review, too, where someone wrote, 'I don't think I'll continue to watch "How to Get Away With Murder" because she's not pretty, and she's not likeable,' and I thought to myself that nobody will ever address that as being their stuff," says Davis.

"They'll put it on the actor. And me as an actor, that's not my responsibility. If I make her likeable, then I'm pushing an edit button, and that's not what you're supposed to do as an actor. You don't press an edit button."

Quoted

This is the first time Davis has stayed with a character this long. Asked if she's enjoying the long-term work on Annalise, she says, "I am," before adding with a laugh, "Ask me that in another three years."

"How to Get Away With Murder" returns tonight at 10 p.m. / MITCHELL HAASETH, ABC

But the likeability problem extends beyond just asking that Annalise be more charming. People seem to really like the villainous characters that Gandolfini and other male actors have brought to life, and Davis says that affection is influenced by gender.

"They will forgive their mess. We understand that men at the end of the day are flawed. A man can have 50 affairs, but still there's something charming about him. But a woman, like in 'Fatal Attraction,' who's having sex with a married man, is a bitch. There is something about women that we want to stay virtuous," she says.

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Going there

Powerful TV

Davis also influences what ends up on the show — it was her idea to have Annalise take her wig off onscreen in the first season, and she hopes to see more scenes that address everyday life for people of color. "The most revolutionary things you can do are the most simple. And I think taking the wig off, having a scene with a mother talking about sexual abuse, a mother [and] a woman of color, putting me between her legs and doing my hair, all those things, no matter what people say, you've never seen it on TV. You just haven't. You haven't seen me on TV. That's what excites me, that [creator] Pete [Nowalk] is willing to go there."

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Changes in Shondaland

Interview. Ellen Pompeo says "Grey's Anatomy" is going to come back stronger than ever.

"Grey's Anatomy" returns tonight at 8 on ABC. / RICHARD CARTWRIGHT

It's not every show that can recover from the loss of one of its two romantic leads, but that's just what "Grey's Anatomy" will be trying to do this fall. While the show has been popular over the years for many reasons, a large part of its early success was certainly due to the chemistry between leads Ellen Pompeo and Patrick Dempsey. Since Dempsey's beloved McDreamy was written off last season, Pompeo will be carrying on without him, but she thinks it's good for the show to go through this transition.

GETTY IMAGES

"I always say this. In order for a one-hour drama to continue, there have to be big upheavals. Every time we've lost a major character — we've had such amazing characters on the show — and every time we've lost one, it's been devastating and sad, and you think, 'How can the show go on?' but that's how the writers find inspiration," explains Pompeo.

For a show that's been on the air for over a decade, that can inject some necessary new life into everyone who works on the show. "It always feels completely new, which is why it's easy to keep going," says Pompeo of the atmosphere once a cast member exits.

When asked if she wished Dempsey had been written off in a different way, she answers, "I never question [creator] Shonda [Rhimes], ever. What she's doing is clearly working!"

That might mean a new romantic interest for Meredith Grey, who's scrambling in the wake of the death of the love of her life. As to the prospect of a new love, she says, "As long as Shonda comes up with it, I'm down for whatever idea she comes up with. She always comes up with great ideas."

With that in mind, she says, "I know that the focus this year is going to be how you move on in the face of tragedy, and [Meredith's] got three kids, and I guess to dive into her kids and work is the most logical place."

One more thing

A lighter touch

After all the tragedy at the end of last season, Pompeo says this season will likely be a little less dark. "Shonda really wants this season to be a lot lighter," she explains. "We have some cute interns and some fresh blood, so I think you have to mix it up. We were dark, now we have to go light. You have to keep changing to keep the audience engaged."

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Your guide to the New York Film Festival

Movies. For a prestigious film festival, the New York Film Festival is small. But among its selectively chosen wares lies real diversity. As the fest begins tomorrow, here's the breakdown of the lineup's best titles.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Don Cheadle plays Miles Davis in "Miles Ahead," the closing night film of the New York Film Festival, which runs from Sept. 25 to Oct. 11. Visit www.filmlinc.org/nyff2015/ for more. / ALL PHOTOS NYFF

North American talents

Canada's Guy Maddin's **"The Forbidden Room"** is the retro filmmaker's first "classic"-style outing in ages, and you can tell: It's stocked silly with jokes and rampant absurdity, overflowing with zeppelins, volcanoes, squid theft, "offal piling" as well as stars like Mathieu Amalric, Charlotte Rampling and Udo Kier.

Rebecca Miller, daughter of Arthur, tries her hand at Noah Baumbachian comedy with **"Maggie's Plan,"** which borrows Greta Gerwig.

"EXPERIMENTER"

And Michael Moore does his thing, if you're into it, with **"Where to Invade Next."**

Perhaps best of all is **"Experimenter,"** Michael Almereyda's dense look at Stanley Milgram (a rarely better Peter Sarsgaard), the mind behind contested psychological experiments from the '60s and '70s that demonstrated humankind's ability to follow orders, even if it meant hurting people — a charge that could be made against Milgram himself.

Documentaries

Frederick Wiseman hits up Queens with "In Jackson Heights."

Laura Poitras chases "Citizenfour" with **"Field of Vision,"** which compiles four shorts, including one on Julian Assange. Noah Baumbach's **"De Palma"** offers a filmmaker-on-filmmaker look at one of the most hotly contested directors (who, by the way, is a genius — his great "Blow Out" is also part of the fest).

The hottest nonfiction ticket, though, should be **"In Jackson Heights,"** the 40th-or-so film from Frederick Wiseman, who's in his 80s yet still cranks out on average a film a year, each an abstract, mysterious and perceptive look at institutions or, in this case, a community. Here, he drops into the Queens neighborhood to root around amongst a rich multicultural enclave.

The Majors

John C. Reilly, Ben Whishaw and Colin Farrell in "The Lobster"

No fest could live without earth-quaking, star-studded product, some of which will hit theaters soon after their splashy NYFF appearances. There are big premieres — **"The Walk,"** Steven Spielberg's **"Bridge of Spies"** and Don Cheadle's Miles Davis film **"Miles Ahead"** — plus also-rans like **"Carol"** and **"Steve Jobs."**

But you should also be pumped for **"The Lobster,"** in which "Dogtooth" director Yorgos Lanthimos scores Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, John C. Reilly, Ben Whishaw and more for some grim, crazy high-concept fun. Here we get a world where those who are single are forced to pair off; if they don't, they're turned into the animal of their choice. And it's all weirdly devastating (and funny).

Mighty International Masters

"ARABIAN NIGHTS"

At least half of the Main Slate is filled by the latest from the world's established greats, from Arnaud Desplechin (**"My Golden Days"**) to Nanni Moretti (**"Mia Madre"**) to Apichatpong Weerasethakul (**"Cemetery of Splendor"**) to an arty kung-fu film from Hou Hsiao-Hsien (**"The Assassin"**).

The truly bold will tackle all six and a half hours of Miguel Gomes' **"Arabian Nights,"** which is only partially inspired by the source and more a shape-shifting, playful study of Portugal during an economic crisis that's by turns angry and bizarrely funny.

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Aries Make a deal, investment or major decision and don't look back. Your instincts will be right on the money, and you will come out on top.

Taurus Protect your assets, and don't let anyone coerce you into making a loan. Stick with people you respect and those who aren't trying to get anything.

Gemini Your straightforward way of expressing yourself will enable you to effectively sell your ideas. Present your plans to influential people.

Cancer Prepare to act quickly if you want to take advantage of a tempting offer. The deal won't be on the table for long.

Leo Don't lash out in anger just because you are upset, or a rift will form. Think before you speak, and voice your opinions without making insults.

Virgo Don't give up just because the people around you are being negative. Present your ideas to those appreciative of you and what you have to offer.

Libra Travel will be an eye-opener. Don't miss out on an opportunity to visit other countries or attend cultural events.

Scorpio Family matters will be overwhelming. Seek out an experienced counselor if you are having trouble coping.

Sagittarius Get out and socialize. You can be the life of the party, but your attentiveness to a casual acquaintance will make someone you love jealous.

Capricorn With the right info, you will make a profitable investment. Don't do joint ventures. You will experience less stress doing deals on your own.

Aquarius Don't let insecurity prevent you from turning over a new leaf. You have the unique ability to adapt to any situation.

Pisces Steer clear of gossip. There is nothing to be gained by listening to or passing along false or damaging information. **EUGENIA LAST**

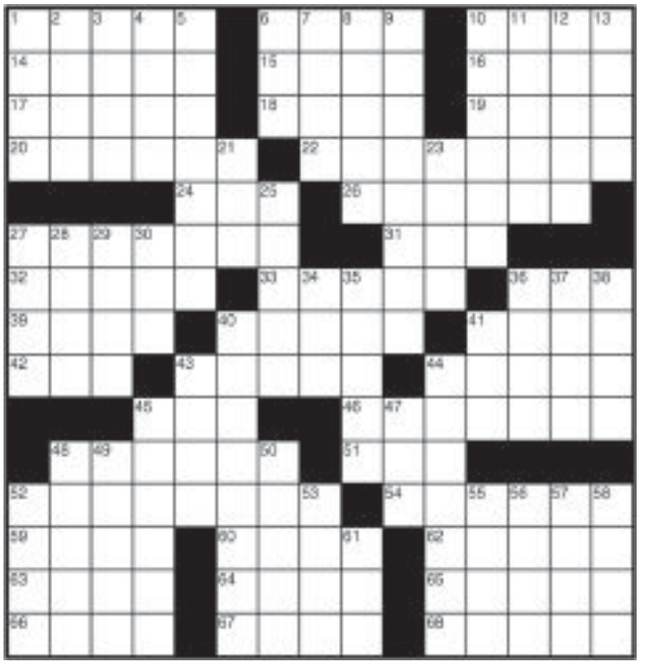
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Lady fox
6 Microwaves
10 Strike ignorer
14 See eye-to-eye
15 Charles Lamb pen name
16 Lobby call
17 Charges too much
18 Midnight opposite
19 Moon goddess
20 Rendezvous
22 Relaxed, as a snake
24 — be an honor!
26 Popsicle holders
27 Monkey wrench
31 Seine moorage
32 "Peer Gynt" composer
33 Meaningless
36 Mao -- -tung
39 Waterfront event
40 In a carefree way
41 Mariner's hello
42 Like a bairn
43 Ballroom number
44 Ostrich feather
45 — Abner, of the comics
46 Forded
48 Squelches
51 Codgers' queries
52 Awkward
54 Hepburn's quartet
59 Swell, as a river
60 Perfume bottle
62 Municipal
63 Pharaoh's god
64 Advantage
65 Where Valletta is
66 Brain, maybe
67 Crash, so to speak
68 Win every game

Down

1 Like the sky
2 Mr. Stravinsky
3 Fracture finder (hyph.)
4 Mouse alerts
5 Bird activity
6 Koan discipline
7 Slugger Moises —
8 Subatomic particles
9 Holiness
10 Alter genes
11 Seal a tub
12 Ms. DeMille
13 Droplet
21 Sault -- Marie
23 Unctuous
25 Improbable wish
27 Bane of pvts.
28 Strait-laced
29 Slave girl of opera
30 Bridal notice word
34 Playing marble
35 Recognize
36 THUS
37 A portion of
38 Gazed at
40 Swift traveler
41 Gore and Capone
43 Little creek
44 Pouched critters (var.)
45 Fable
47 "P" for Plato
48 Very
49 Big name at Indy
50 Rudely sarcastic
52 Kind of muffin
53 Chokes
55 Bird's crop
56 Equal to the task
57 Tempo
58 Be grouchy
61 Tolerate



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easy

8			6				3	
				1	9			6
7						2	1	
	7	6		8			9	5
		8		7		6		
1	9			5		7	2	
	3	7						1
9			7	3				
	5				4			7

hard

		6			2	3		9
	5			3				8
2		3		8		6		
7						5		
	3	2				9	1	
		9						2
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3				4			9	
1		8	6			7		

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PAUL GOODE

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Looking for exciting art shows in NYC? We've got just the ticket. Here are some of our best suggestions for kinky, cool, strange or straight-up amazing artistic events coming soon to the five boroughs.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

PROVIDED

Elsie Fest

Sept. 27, 2-9 p.m.
JBL Live at Pier 97, Hudson River Park at W. 58th St.
$49-$250, Elsiefest.com
Elsie Fest, aka the "Coachella of showtunes," is the first outdoor music festival dedicated to Broadway. Past and current stars including Darren Criss, Lea Salonga, Aaron Tveit, Laura Osnes, Leslie Odom Jr. and Telly Leung, plus others, will perform. Proceeds benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

TEDxMet

Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
The Met Breuer
945 Madison Ave.
$40-$100, Metmuseum.org
Although the new Metropolitan Museum offshoot, the Met Breuer, won't open until March, lucky guests will get a sneak peek at the space Sept. 26 when it hosts TEDxMet, a full day of stories and seminars on the theme "The In-Between."

'Off the Desk'

Saturdays, Sept. 26-Nov. 21, 8 p.m.
Celebration of Whimsy
21 Clinton St.
$25, Offthedeskshow.com
Subtitled "Tales of a Mediocre Stockbroker," new comedy show "Off the Desk" tells the true story of Chris Foley, who left a lucrative career in finance to tell the world what really happens on the trading floor (drugs and strippers, mostly). Your job won't seem nearly as stressful next to Wall Street.

Emily Kinney

Oct. 1, 8 p.m.
Highline Ballroom
431 W. 16th St.
$20, Highlineballroom.com
Everyone's wondering what Emily Kinney will be doing next since her heart-stopping exit from "The Walking Dead." But those who've heard her recent singles know she's been doubling down on a blossoming music career. See for yourself next month at the Highline Ballroom.

NY Pops Opening Night

Oct. 9, 8 p.m.
Carnegie Hall
154 W. 57th St.
$40-$122, Carnegiehall.org
The incomparable New York Pops kick off their 33rd season at Carnegie Hall this October under the baton of music director Steven Reineke. Broadway stars Sierra Boggess and Steven Pasquale perform "My Favorite Things: The Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein."

Sketch Fest

Oct. 15-18,
People's Improv Theater
123 E. 24th St.
TBA, Thepit-nyc.com
Some of the best improv troupes in the country come together for the fourth annual Sketch Fest from the People's Improv Theater. For four days, comedians will descend on the PIT's three Manhattan stages for skits, shows and workshops. Do you have what it takes? Submissions are still being accepted.

New York Burlesque Festival

Sept. 24-27
Various locations
Free-$70, Thenewyorkburlesquefestival.com
Over 100 burlesque dancers from around the world come together to honor and showcase the best of the business in the 13th annual New York Burlesque Festival. It's also the sixth year of the All Stripped Out after-party Sept. 28, following the closing ceremony and Golden Pastie Awards.

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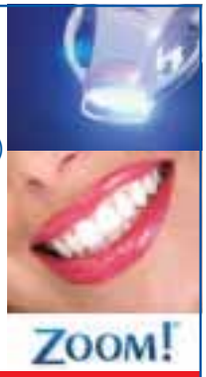

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A copy of the ownership organization chart reflecting the proposed changes of control ("proposed organizational chart") may be viewed at DoITT, 2 Metrotech Center, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, commencing September 21, 2015, through October 13, 2015, between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Paper copies of the proposed organizational chart may be obtained, by appointment, at a cost of $.25 per page. All payments shall be made at the time of pickup by check or money order made payable to the New York City Department of Finance. The proposed organizational chart may also be obtained in PDF form at no cost, by email request. Interested parties should contact Roxanne Chambers at 718-403-6730 or by email at RChambers@doitt.nyc.gov.

NOTE: Individuals requesting sign language interpreters or any other accommodation of disability at the public hearing should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearing Unit, 253 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than SEVEN (7) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING. TDD users should call Verizon relay service.

The Hearing may be cablecast on NYC Media channels.

A Black Tree grows in Brooklyn

The LES farm-to-table hit refines its experimental style for Williamsburg.

EVA KIS
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eva.kis@metro.us

When you have as many ideas as Sandy Dee Hall, a week is just not long enough to get them all on the plate.

The chef-owner's LES restaurant Black Tree, which is expanding to Williamsburg (261 Metropolitan Ave.) next week, opened about two years ago after a well-received sandwich pop-up but turned into a bona fide farm-to-table gem when Hall started theming his weekly menu around a star protein.

But the tiny space — just over 700 square feet — meant there was never enough room for everything he wanted to do. In the dining room of Black Tree Brooklyn, twice as large and already affectionately dubbed "jungle warehouse," guests will share tabletops with potted plants while corners are piled full of fermenting vegetables and experiments in curing, which Hall began doing in earnest over the summer.

Chef Sandy Dee Hall is looking forward to expanding his kitchen experiments at Black Tree Brooklyn. HANNAH MATTIX, METRO

To complete the story of his ingredients, Black Tree Brooklyn will have an eight-seat chef's table where Hall will serve tasting menus of up to 18 courses that he describes as fun and experimental.

"Instead of the more rustic platings that I do, [the tasting menu] will be super refined," he says. "It's the kind of stuff that you think you see every day, but it's gonna be not done the same way; it can look really simple, but hopefully it doesn't taste that way."

A tasting event earlier this week — in a half-finished kitchen without gas — found blackberries paired with beef, gravlax cured to the texture of bacon, and pickled peaches and duck confit on puffy bao buns. Very little of it made sense at first glance; all of it was delicious.

Hall hasn't abandoned his roots as a bartender, either. Another of his new experiments is barrel aging as a way to add a different dimension to Black Tree's cocktails. Because everything at the restaurants is sourced within 300 miles of the city (including spirits), there are no limes for Hall's margaritas. Barrel aging adds a deep note and subtle sweetness that invoke a caipirinha — flavor without the carbon footprint.

"We're doing [the cocktail program] local," he explains, "so we're actually taking that a step further and creating it even more inside the space."

On Your Radar

Be the bartender at Genuine Liquorette

When someone with the experience of Eben Freeman (Saxon + Parole, The Butterfly) is running the beverage program, there's no need for anyone else behind the bar. Yet that's exactly who he's inviting in when Genuine Liquorette opens tonight.

The bodega-style bar sits in the basement of Little Italy's throwback burger joint Genuine Superette (191 Grand St.), which opened back in April.

PROVIDED

Freeman heads up the cocktail program at both venues, and like the restaurant's partnerships with chefs to create a monthly special burger, Liquorette will host bartenders from around the world and challenge them to make cocktails using only one of the 650 spirits on hand.

But the first Monday of each month belongs to the newbies. For $75, anyone can learn the basics in a two-hour class with Freeman and Liquorette's other bartenders: Everything from how to set up your tools to pouring and mixing technique, the recipe that will make you 5,000 drinks, proper presentation — and why it all matters when it comes to not just doing a job, but creating an experience.

If you've got the wrists for it (because it's all in the wrists), you won't just have a few slick moves for your next house party. You can get right behind the bar at Liquorette and make those drinks for yourself, friends — and anyone else who will let you. Please pour responsibly. EVA KIS

Listings

COCKTAILS

LuckyRice

Sept. 25, 10 p.m.-midnight
Bowery Hotel, 335 Bowery
$50-$88, Luckyrice.com
See what gin can do at Bombay Sapphire's annual moon festival, LuckyRice. This late-night event of decadent bites and specially curated cocktails from guest mixologists celebrates Asian culture and food. There will also be a DJ setting the tone of the indoor/outdoor party.

PROVIDED

WELLBEING

Grand Zentral

Sept. 29, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Grand Central Terminal
Vanderbilt Hall, 89 E. 42nd St.
Free, Grandcentralterminal.com
Beautiful though it may be, Grand Central Terminal is not associated with peace of mind. But you can be at one with yourself at the station's Vanderbilt Hall on Tuesday at this pop-up expo, with 12 booths of yoga products and services from participants like Athleta, Viva Coco, Juice Press and MAC. Or take the ultimate challenge and try to find your zen at one of six free yoga classes.

CONCERT

Global Citizen Festival

Sept. 26, 4-10 p.m.
Central Park Great Lawn
Between 79th and 85th streets
Prices vary, Globalcitizen.com
Good deeds are their own reward, but this weekend the powers that be are throwing in an exclusive celebrity concert. Tickets are available for donations and activism to fight poverty worldwide. Hosts include Stephen Colbert, Hugh Jackman and Kerry Washington, with music by Beyonce, Pearl Jam, Coldplay and Ed Sheeran.

STREET FAIR

Chelsea Eats

Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Eighth Ave. from 14th-23rd sts.
Free, Popupnewyorkevents.com
Chelsea Eats promises to step up the city's street fair game with a half-mile of food, entertainment and arts Sunday. The pop-up will feature performances from the Joyce Theater, Music Underground New York and Mad Libs LIVE! Venues along the route will also be participating with outside food and beer gardens.

Atlantic Antic

Sept. 27, noon-6 p.m.
Atlantic Avenue, between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue
Free, Atlanticave.org
Brooklyn's largest street fair takes place this Sunday across four neighborhoods along Atlantic Avenue, with more than 500 vendors of crafts, wares, food and drink, in addition to 10 stages for music, dance and live performances.

ARTS

'What Are You Afraid Of?'

Sept. 30, 8 p.m.
Over the Eight
594 Union Ave., Brooklyn
$5, Overtheeight.com
Everyone is afraid of something, and those phobias can be anything from the understandable (flight, spiders, Donald Trump) to the irrational (clowns, dolls, parties). This is your chance to commiserate with some famous people who get candid about what raises their heart rate.

PETS

Strut Your Mutt

Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Hudson River Park's Pier 26
West St. at N. Moore St.
Free, Strutyourmutt.com
You can still register for this weekend's Strut Your Mutt, a fundraising event for homeless dogs and cats hosted by "Girls" actress Zosia Mamet. Walk with your pup to contribute funds or just enjoy the gathering of happy humans and their four-legged friends at a festival on Pier 26 including pet portraits, doggie yoga, pet massage, music, giveaways and more.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

See the future at World Maker Faire

World Maker Faire isn't just one event — it's a two-day TEDtalk-meets-World's Fair-meets-Comic-Con for inventors. From casual tinkerers to the people building the next iPhone, meet them all and get hands-on with their projects. Past exhibits have included giant metal fire-breathing dragon sculpture, so we're pumped to see what's in store. PETER DESTEFANO

If you go

World Maker Faire

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Sun, sea and shopping in Aruba

Way down south in the Caribbean Sea, and with some of the best beaches in the region, Aruba is an island you don't want to miss.

ALL PHOTOS SHUTTERSTOCK

Like its neighbors, Aruba has plenty of sun, sand and sea, but that's where the similarities end. Because where other islands have lush green landscapes, Aruba is desert-like, home to cacti, arid-air-loving aloe plants and divi-divi trees.

Being so far south — a day at sea if you're cruising from Miami or Puerto Rico — it escapes the hurricane belt. Whether visiting in summer or winter, the temperature will average 82° and the humidity will be low.

Aruba is one of the Dutch ABC islands (along with neighboring Bonaire and Curacao), colonized by Holland in the 1600s and still an outpost of the Netherlands. That's how the capital, Oranjestad, got its name and came to be full of the gabled houses that are commonplace in Amsterdam. Only in Aruba, the facades are brightly colored.

Aruba's beaches are a big attraction, but step a few feet into the water and there's a world of colorful corals and fish to explore. Catamaran trips take you to the best reefs, but why not have a go on a Seabob underwater scooter that powers you through the ocean? Nonswimmers can don a diving helmet and walk underwater through shoals of tropical fish.

For those who prefer to keep their feet dry, Jeep, ATV (all-terrain vehicle) or Harley Davidson motorbike tours are a fun way to see the sights. Top stops include the California Lighthouse, a 100-year-old beacon named after the USS California, which was wrecked nearby, and the Casibari Rock Formations, a cluster of boulders where Arawak Indians, the island's first settlers, used to listen for approaching thunderstorms. Or saddle up and enjoy the arid landscapes on a horseback ride.

Oranjestad, an easy walk from the cruise port, has shopping, casinos and lively restaurants serving local specialties, including Dutch pancakes, of course.

INSIGHT GUIDES | JANE ARCHER

Beaches you won't want to miss

- **Arashi**, at the northernmost tip of the island, is the locals' favorite. It's about 20 minutes by taxi but well worth the journey. The sand is soft, the water is calm, and the snorkeling is excellent.
- **Eagle Beach**, 10 minutes by taxi or bus from the port, is good for sunning and swimming. The beach also has jet skis, banana boats and tennis.
- **Palm Beach**, 15 minutes' drive from the port, is a favorite with families for its white sand, calm waters, easy snorkeling and a backdrop of resort hotels with bars, restaurants and shopping.

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The perfect seaside town

With a quiet beach, good dining, unique shops and historical ambiance, but no crowds, congestion or commercialization, Lewes, Del., is the ideal early autumn getaway.

ALL PHOTOS SHUTTERSTOCK

Ranked "the best place to live in Delaware" by a statewide poll, Lewes (pronounced LEW-is) remains a gem undiscovered by tourists. First settled by the Dutch in the 1600s, Lewes retains a sense of history. The brightly painted Zwaanendael Museum greets visitors as they arrive, and nine buildings from 1725 to 1898 stand in tree-shaded Shipcarpenter Square in the heart of town as a living museum.

The town beach, located on the Delaware Bay, is broad and clean —and beachgoers enjoy calmer waters than on Atlantic beaches. It's well-loved by families. There's no boardwalk — just a seasonal ice cream and burger stand. The biggest excitement is watching the Cape May-Lewes ferry as it docks near the beach.

Cape Henlopen State Park, just outside town, has 6 miles of Atlantic beaches, 3 miles of trails and a full menu of outdoor activities including fishing, kayaking, surfing, biking, camping and birdwatching. You can tour the remains of World War II coastal defenses at Fort Miles in the park.

The shopping and dining rival much larger resorts. Fashion-seekers should check out Aquamarine and Twila Farrell. The Steppingstone showcases American handicrafts, Packard-Reath is known for fine art photography, and Sand and Stones sells jewelry created from sand glass. Lewes Gourmet has a huge selection of jigsaw puzzles in the country, plus toys that are not movie tie-ins.

Gilligans has waterfront seating. Agave is known for its Mexican fare. Striper Bites bills itself as a "nautical bistro." Irish Eye Pub is a quick visit to Dublin, while Villa Sorrento and Touch of Italy take you to the Med. Touch of Italy is also known for its cured-meat shop.

For more information, go to **www.leweschamber.com/visit.**

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

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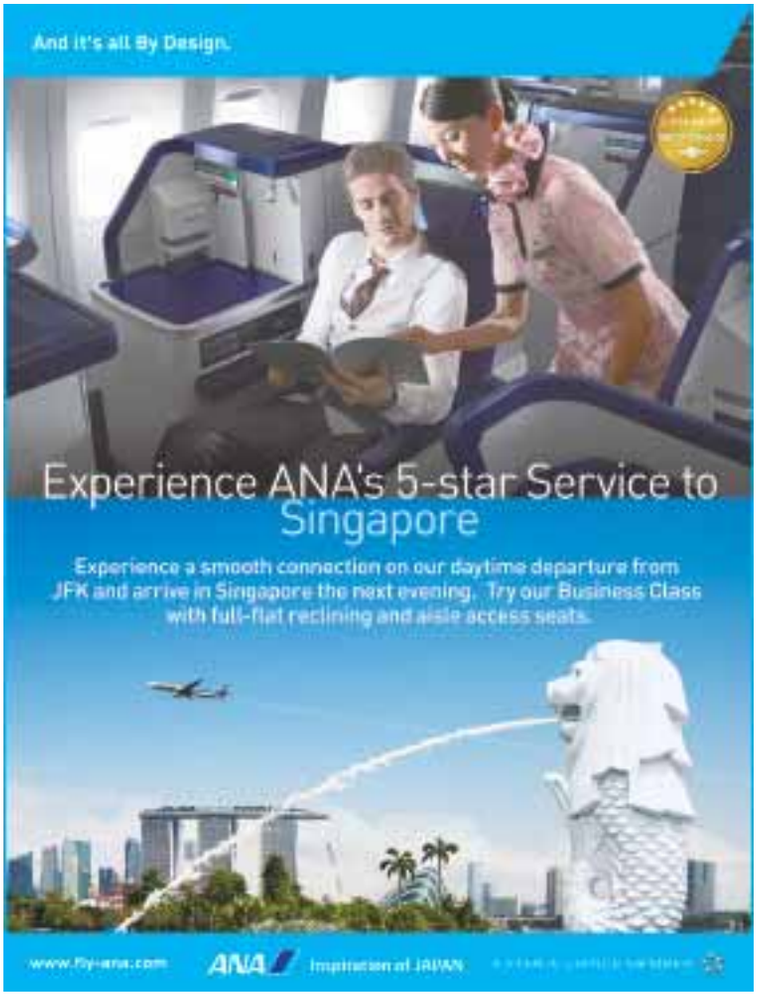
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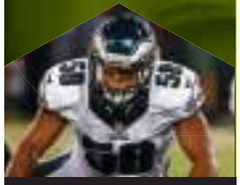
3 SPORTS

NFL

Kam back with Seahawks

The Seattle Seahawks might be the best 0-2 team in NFL history now that Kam Chancellor has ended his holdout with the team. ESPN reported Wednesday that Chancellor and the Seahawks plan to revisit talks regarding a new contract in the offseason. Chancellor had been holding out for a new deal for over seven weeks. The Seahawks have their first home game of 2015 this Sunday against the Bears.



Visit **Metro.us** to see our complete Power Rankings heading into Week 3.

REBOUNDING FROM ONE BLOODY SUNDAY

Week 2 was one of the worst in recent memory for injuries. There are a lot of owners out there thinking their season is over right now. That's a silly thought. The good news is that a lot of the injuries were at quarterback, which is the most replaceable position in all of fantasy.

Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor has 84 yards rushing in two games so far this season. / GETTY IMAGES

Swim with the stream

In Week 1, Carson Palmer, Marcus Mariota, Alex Smith, Andy Dalton and Nick Foles were all top-10 quarterbacks. In Week 2, that top-10 list included Colin Kaepernick, Derek Carr, Tyrod Taylor, Palmer and Joe Flacco. The point is that we can add quarterbacks off the wire each week in plus situations and gain a top-10 expectation. That almost never happens at any other position. So if you've lost Tony Romo, Drew Brees, Jay Cutler, etc., take a long look at your wire and think about matchups. The Michael Vick-esque Taylor gets the Dolphins, Giants and Titans the next three weeks.

Two-for-one

When it comes time for the fantasy playoffs, elite players are going to make the difference. So it's never too early to take advantage of a desperate owner on the trade market. The best way to do this is to identify where our enemy is weak thanks to injury and offer him/her two of our mediocre players for one of his studs. He feels better about his depth (even though his newly acquired mediocrity won't help him win a title) and we get the difference-maker we covet.

Pickups of the week

Who to add for Week 3:

- **James Starks, RB, Packers -** The offense won't slow down at all if Eddie Lacy (ankle) misses time.
- **Leonard Hankerson, WR, Falcons -** Roddy White is done, and Hankerson is Kyle Shanahan's heir.

Don't panic at RB

Luckily, most of the running back injuries do not sound overly serious. Eddie Lacy (ankle), Tevin Coleman (ribs), Carlos Hyde (head) and Lamar Miller (ankle) should all be back soon. There are plenty of short-term options available at the position, including Dion Lewis, James Starks, Devonta Freeman, David Johnson, Matt Jones, Lorenzo Taliaferro, Theo Riddick and Lance Dunbar. We're looking for stopgaps that catch passes and/or have a role in the red zone. A path to 20 carries isn't always possible.

FANTASY SPORTS
ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

NFL

Three things to watch for as the Giants take on the Redskins

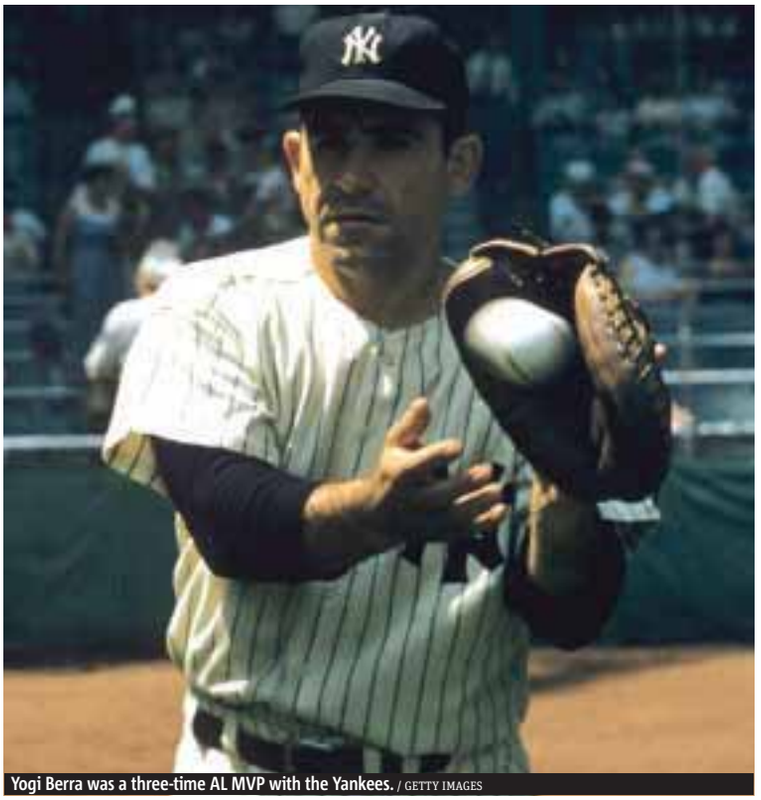
The Giants' season is already at a crossroads, and the calendar hasn't even turned to October yet. But that's what happens when a team loses two inter-conference games — including a divisional contest — with another division rival on the docket. Should they lose to the Redskins (1-1) Thursday (8:25 p.m., CBS), the Giants (0-2) will have dropped two NFC East games. A season can't be totally lost in just the first few weeks, but that doesn't mean 0-2 can't turn into 0-6 in the blink of an eye — like it did just two seasons ago for the Giants.

1 Slot machine
Not that Preston Parker was indispensable, but he was statistically the most productive wideout not named Odell Beckham Jr. Parker tallied five catches for 43 yards out of the slot, but he's since been released due to having as many drops as receptions. And with Victor Cruz (calf) still not ready, there's a void at that position. Tom Coughlin noted the position will likely be a revolving door until one man steps up and takes the reins — until Cruz is ready, of course. That list includes rookie Geremy Davis, return specialist Dwayne Harris and Rueben Randle.

2 Mental block
The Giants set an NFL record for blowing double-digit fourth-quarter leads to start the season. That's scarring for any team, let alone one that hasn't been very good in recent years. Big Blue will need to start fast and show some mettle when times get tough in order to exorcise the recent losses.

3 Attention to detail
They've blown two leads late, and while that sometimes means a lack of depth was finally exposed as the game waned on, it also simply means that a team isn't paying attention to the details necessary to close out games. Eli Manning has yet to throw an interception and has been as statistically good as any quarterback so far (485 yards passing, two touchdowns and a 61.8 completion rate), but he's failed miserably down the stretch when it mattered most. "The receivers have been doing a good job. I've just got to make better throws," Manning said. "I missed [tight end] Larry [Donnell] late [against the Falcons] when I didn't get the ball down and give him the opportunity to make that catch. ... Everybody's got to play better. Everybody's got to do their part, and it starts with me."

TONY WILLIAMS



Yogi Berra was a three-time AL MVP with the Yankees. / GETTY IMAGES

Yogi Berra dead at 90

MLB. The Yankees great was a Hall of Fame catcher and he coined many a unique phrase.

Yogi Berra, a Hall of Fame catcher for the New York Yankees whose mangled syntax made him one of the sports world's most beloved and frequently quoted figures, died on Tuesday at the age of 90, Major League Baseball said.

"We mourn the passing of Yankees icon and Hall of Famer Yogi Berra," MLB said in a tweet.

The Yankees said in a tribute on Twitter: "We are deeply saddened by the loss of a Yankees legend and American hero."

Lawrence Peter Berra, known to the world as Yogi, was a tough catcher and a feared clutch hitter who helped the Yankees dominate baseball from 1947 to 1963. On a team packed with great players like Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio, Berra led the Yanks in runs batted in for seven consecutive seasons. He won the American League's Most Valuable Player award three times in the 1950s, was a 15-time All Star and entered baseball's Hall of Fame in 1972.

Berra's baseball accomplishments were sometimes overshadowed by his linguistic shortcomings. Some of his statements were head-scratching malapropisms while others sounded like warped Zen koans or deep Yoda-like wisdom.

His "Yogi-isms" were repeated by presidents, Wall Street titans, comedians and anyone else who wanted to sound wise, funny, folksy - or all three.

"I don't know why I say these things," he once told Reuters in an interview. "But people understand me."

George W. Bush quoted him while stumping for the presidency in 2000, saying Berra might join his campaign. "Yogi could be my policy director," Bush said. "He could say, 'When you come to a fork in the road, take it.'"

At the Vatican, Berra greeted Pope John XXIII by saying "Hello, pope." The pope replied: "Hello, Yogi."

REUTERS
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Remembering Yogi

- **Derek Jeter** to The Players Tribune on Berra: "To those who didn't know Yogi personally, he was one of the greatest baseball players and Yankees of all time. To those lucky ones who did, he was an even better person."
- **Seth Rogen** on Twitter: "I don't know much about sports, but Yogi Berra was always my favorite baseball player because he was a comedic genius."

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Jets notes

Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin may not be back yet but the Jets' rookie linebacker is making progress after a concussion suffered two weeks ago.

- "I just know I was going in for [Johnny] Manziel, pretty much I think I took a blow to the jaw or something. I had a migraine before that play, it's going away, but I'm thinking in triggered something."

The Browns game was Mauldin's NFL debut. He hopes to play Sunday against Philadelphia but still needs to clear the concussion protocol.

- **Eric Decker** didn't practice on Wednesday as a knee injury suffered on Monday night could potentially sideline the receiver for this weekend's game against the Eagles.

Eagles' Kelly scoffs at Sanchez questions

NFL. The head coach was in no mood to talk about the Jets' former starting QB.

Chip Kelly has turned to Sam Bradford in Philly and has left Mark Sanchez in a backup role. / GETTY IMAGES

Chip Kelly really didn't want to talk Mark Sanchez on Wednesday. Really. As he does every week, Kelly, the Philadelphia Eagles head coach, had a conference call with the out-of-town media to preview the upcoming game. It is routine stuff usually and very often, the questions coming at him can be spotted a mile away. Tell us about your up-tempo offense? How has the transition been from college now that you're in the league for your third year?

And if you're playing the New York Jets, you have to expect that the questions will be coming in about Mark Sanchez, a former first-round pick of New York in 2009 and a player once nicknamed "The Sanchize." He was a polarizing figure in New York, a player who the Jets traded up to take sixth overall, who was then unceremoniously cut five years later. Kelly had to know a couple Sanchez related questions were coming.

But no, Kelly didn't like the line of questioning, with three questions that centered on if his GQ cover-boy/backup quarterback was ever in the mix to replace starter Sam Bradford, who has struggled this year for the 0-2 Eagles.

Midway through the call, Kelly was asked if he considered starting Sanchez this week, to which he said, "Nope." That was the first Sanchez-related question of the call.

Then a couple moments later, Kelly was asked why he didn't think Sanchez, who was sharp in the preseason, should start, to which he answered "Excuse me, because Sam Bradford is our starting quarterback."

A rather reasonable question to ask, given Sanchez's stature as a former starter coupled with the Eagles' woeful attempts at being an offense that can score points.

Kelly was then asked another follow-up on Sanchez and he delivered this line: "Are you Mark's agent?"

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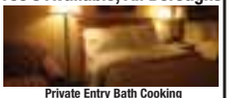

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1289042, for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 86-12A 37th Ave., Jackson Hgts., New York 11372, for on premise consumption. Cherry Blossom Buffet Inc.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of REI Champs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the New York Secy. of State (SSNY) on 05/28/2015. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 1872 Lexington Ave., Suite 108, New York, NY 10035. Purpose: any lawful activity, Real Estate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1287039, for Wine, Beer & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine, Beer & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 69 Smithtown Blvd., Smithtown, NY 11787, for on-premise consumption. 69 Bistro Inc. d/b/a Wild Ginger.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Blue Crown Global Enterprise LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on July 20, 2015. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o Bernard Parris, 707 Linwood Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1288748, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Chinese Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 92 Hester St., New York, NY 10002 for on-premises consumption. Hou Yi Hot Pot Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1288227, for Restaurant Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Japanese Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 1406 Cortelyou Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11226 for on-premises consumption. Kumo Japanese Cuisine at Brooklyn Inc.

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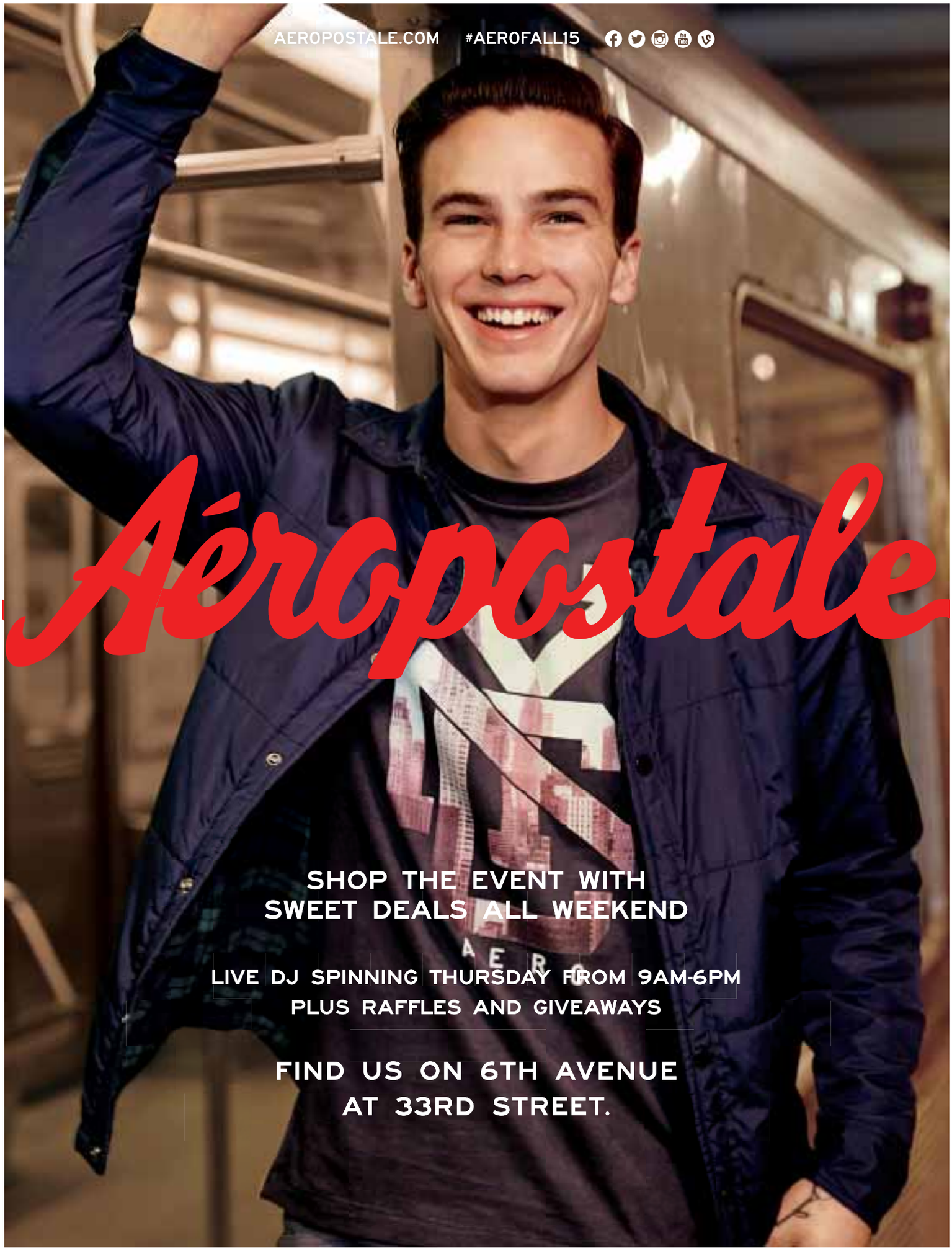
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